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17 February 1968

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT : Communist Objectives in "Second Wave" Attacks

REFERENCE : TDCS-314/03012-68

1. The referenced intelligence report, which outlines Communist plans and objectives for a "second wave" attack on Danang, merits your urgent attention. [redacted]

2. The information in this new report is consistent with that contained in the 9 February MR V document picked up in Danang, a careful retranslation of which has been received from our Station. This document had indicated that, despite the very limited success attained in the initial Tet attack on Danang, all VC elements were to conduct activity to exploit favorable conditions in preparation for possible further attacks. The decision on the next phase was to be considered at a meeting to be convened by MR V on 12 February. In the interim, military elements -- including three units under "Brother TRUC" -- were to "attack continuously, fight small and medium actions everywhere, and simultaneously prepare to fight concerted big actions at the same time, in waves, to make the enemy incapable of stabilizing the situation again."

3. This new report would seem to reflect the results of the 12 February meeting. The attack plan seems feasible, and it is interesting to note that it refers to three regiments under Le Truc (Chief of Staff of MR V), who may have the NVA NT2 Division under his direct operational control. The objectives outlined in this report are significant: to win complete victory, but -- failing that -- to seize the villages surrounding Danang which would then be used as stepping stones for subsequent continuous attack.

4. Because of the accuracy of the earlier report from this source, we place considerable credence in this new report. It would seem that, at least in the Danang area, the "second wave" will be a major effort with maximum objectives comparable to those of the "first wave." Whether there will be a coordinated country-wide "second wave" of similar intensity remains to be seen, but information

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coming in as of this writing (1630 EST, 17 February) suggests that substantial coordinated efforts will indeed be made against various urban centers.

George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

cc: Secretary McNamara
General Wheeler
General DePuy
Secretary Rusk
Mr. Habib

[redacted]

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